

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 02577 01 OF 02 012202Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /098 W
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P R 012050Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 865

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 2577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BR, UR

SUBJ: ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT GEISEL ON THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE REVOLUTION

REF: BRASILIA 2481

1. SUMMARY. SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GEISEL AT VILA MILITAR ON
THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION, WHICH NORMALLY VIEWED
AS A TONE-SETTER FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, WAS AT LEAST OUTWARDLY
CONFIDENT THIS YEAR, BUT BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND. PAST ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PROGRESS WAS LAUDED; THERE WAS NO TALK OF "DISTENSAO,"
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WAS CONDITIONED ON OVERALL PROGRESS,
AND DEMOCRACY DECLARED A REALITY IN THE CURRENT BRAZILIAN
CONTEXT. GEISEL LAMENTED THE DEFEAT BY MDB, A "DICTATORIAL
MINORITY," OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
OF THE JUDICIARY, AND HINTED AT ITS ENACTMENT BY
EXECUTIVE FIAT. IN THE FOREIGN AREA, CURRENT GOOD RELATIONS
WITH THE PLATE BASIN COUNTRIES WERE HIGHLIGHTED, AND RECOGNITION
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 02577 01 OF 02 012202Z

OF U.S./BRAZIL DIFFERENCES WAS COMBINED WITH UNUSUALLY POSITIVE
AFFIRMATION OF TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND PROFOUND MUTUAL
INTERESTS, PRESENT AND FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS HAS BECOME TRADITIONAL, PRESIDENT GEISEL COMMEMORATED
THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION WITH A MARCH 31
LUCHEON ADDRESS TO SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS GATHERED AT THE

KEY VILA MILITARY ARMY COMPOUND IN RIO DE JANEIRO. FOLLOWING INITIAL PLEASANTRIES, GEISEL EMBARKED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS IMPROMPTU SPEECH BY REVIEWING IN FAMILIAR TERMS THE BASIC DOCTRINE OF THE REVOLUTION: TO SEEK THE WELL-BEING OF THE BRAZILIAN CITIZEN THROUGH THE INTERDEPENDENT CONCEPTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY. BRAZIL, HE DECLARED, HAS ACHIEVED MUCH IN ALL FIELDS DURING THE PAST THIRTEEN YEARS: IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. "THEY ARE AREAS WHICH FORM A WHOLE," HE SAID, "IN AN EFFORT WHICH VARIES WITH TIME AND AS A FUNCTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES. NOW ONE OF THE SECTORS DOMINATES, NOW ANOTHER. BUT IN REALITY, DEVELOPMENT IS AN INTEGRATED WHOLE WHICH MUST BE REALIZED HARMONIOUSLY."

3. IN THE POLITICAL FIELD, HE CONTINUED, MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE REVOLUTION, TO INCLUDE THE ESCAPE FROM PRE-REVOLUTION ANARCHY AND THE REPLACEMENT OF A CORRUPT MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM BY TWO PARTIES, PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION, WHICH "EXPRESS THAT WE ARE TRULY FULFILLING AND SEEK TO FULFILL OUR FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATION TO LIVE IN A DEMOCRATIC REGIME." "THE REVOLUTION," HE DECLARED, "WAS MADE IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY, AND THAT DEMOCRACY EXISTS IN OUR COUNTRY, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS. IT CANNOT BE A MERE COPY... OF WHAT IS DONE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IT HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR INTRINSIC CONDITIONS." LIBERTY IN BRAZIL IS DENIED ONLY TO THOSE WHO WISH TO USE IT TO DESTROY THE NATION. CONCLUDING HIS REVIEW OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION, GEISEL HAILED AS PREEMINENT THE PHYSICAL INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE EVER-GROWING SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF A NATION WHERE CASTE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 02577 01 OF 02 012202Z

IS UNKNOWN AND EXTRAORDINARY SOCIAL MOBILITY PREVAILS -- A RARITY IN THE WORLD.

4. IN THE FOREIGN FIELD, DECLARED THE PRESIDENT, BRAZIL BY ITS DEVELOPMENT, SERIOUSNESS, AND SPIRIT OF HARMONY HAS WON A PLACE OF RESPECT ABROAD AND AN INFLUENTIAL VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THE COUNTRY IS AT PEACE WITH NEARLY ALL THE WORLD AND LIVES TOGETHER EVEN WITH COUNTRIES PROFESSING IDEOLOGIES WHICH BRAZIL DOES NOT ACCEPT. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA ARE BETTER THAN EVER, ABOVE ALL WITH THE BASIC COUNTRIES. "AND WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PROBLEMS, AS WE HAVE HAD AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, AND NOW IN DIFFERENCES OF VIEWPOINT WITH RESPECT TO THE NUCLEAR FIELD, AND EVEN IN THE INTERPRETATION OF WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A HUMAN RIGHT, WE LIVE TOGETHER WELL, BECAUSE WE ARE TWO TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND HAVE PROFOUND MUTUAL INTERESTS TO ACHIEVE, TO PRESERVE, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IN AN ALMOST ESSENTIAL WAY, NOT ONLY OF HISTORY BUT EVEN OF GEOGRAPHY, WE ARE COUNTRIES WHICH WILL HAVE TO

PROGRESS TOGETHER, WITHOUT DOUBT IN A SPIRIT OF RESPECT,
OF REGARD, OF HARMONY, AND OF INDEPENDENCE."

5. TURNING TO AN EVENT WHICH HE PRESUMED CONCERNED
EVERYONE, GEISEL LAMENTED THE FACT THAT A MINORITY IN CONGRESS,
BY TRANSFORMING ITSELF INTO A "DICTATORSHIP," (REFTEL) HAD BLOCKED
PASSAGE OF THE REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM -- A SYSTEM WHICH
IS SLOW, LACKING IN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, AND IN NEED OF UPDATING TO
THE LEVEL WHICH BRAZIL HAS ATTAINED. NONETHELESS, DECLARED THE
PRESIDENT, THE MODERN SYSTEM OF JUSTICE WHICH THAT REFORM WAS
TO HAVE UNDERPINNED "WILL BE CREATED." (SEE SEPTTEL)

6. AND SO, ASKED GEISEL RHETORICALLY. WHAT REMAINS
OF THE REVOLUTION. "IT IS 13 YEARS OLD, AND I THINK THAT IT IS
STILL NOT SUFFICIENTLY OLD TO DISAPPEAR. IT SHOULD CONTINUE...
WITH OUR SUPPORT... ALTHOUGH THERE ARE THOSE WHO OPPOSE IT, SOME
BY IGNORANCE, OTHERS BY IDEOLOGY, OTHERS IN GOOD FAITH. IT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BRASIL 02577 01 OF 02 012202Z

FALLS TO US TO BE TRUE TO OUR PRINCIPLES... AND LEAD THIS
REVOLUTION TO THE END SO THAT IT MAY REALIZE ITS OBJECTIVE."
THE ARMED FORCES HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN PROVIDING THE SECURITY
ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS; THEY DEFEATED TERRORISM,
AND THE COUNTRY LIVES "PEACEFULLY, WITH DOUBT VIGILANT AND
READY. WHENEVER WUCH SOURCES (OF TERRORISM) RESURGE, IT IS
OUR DUTY TO OVERCOME THEM."

7. MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, CONCLUDED GIESEL, BUT MUCH
REMAINS TO BE DONE: PROBLEMS EXIST OF INFRASTRUCTURE, OF SOCIAL
AND INCOME INEQUALITIES, WHICH SHOULD STIMULATE FURTHER EFFORT.
AND CONCLUDING, THE PRESIDENT RAISED A TOAST NOT ONLY TO THE
UNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES, BUT TO THE UNION OF THOSE FORCES WITH
THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE OF WHICH THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PART.

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 02577 02 OF 02 012150Z
ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 2577

8. COMMENT. GEISEL'S ADDRESS WAS NERVOUSLY AWAITED BY THOSE SEEKING PORTENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO DEFEAT OF ITS JUDICIAL REFORM AMENDMENT IN CONGRESS THIS WEEK. (REFTEL). IN FACT, THE SPEECH SIGNALLED LITTLE, APART FROM THE HINT, CONTAINED IN THE ASSURANCES OF THE CREATION OF A NEW JUDICIAL SYSTEM, THAT THE REFORM WILL BE ENACTED BY PRESIDENTIAL FIAT. SIMILARLY, SPEECH GAVE FEW INSIGHTS AS TO GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS FOR DEALING WITH MDB MINORITY "DICTATORSHIP" THAT HAD HAD THE TEMERITY TO OBSTRUCT GOVERNMENT REFORM PREPOSALS OR AS TO GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR OTHER POLITICAL REFORMS, BOTH OF WHICH EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENT IN SPECIAL ADDRESS APRIL 1.

9. IN OTHER AREAS, TOO, THE SPEECH HELD TO ESTABLISHED THEMES. THE ACCENT ON "INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT," WHICH SOME TIME AGO OVERTOOK DISTENSAO AS A BYWORD, THE INSISTENCE THAT DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY ALREADY EXIST IN BRAZIL, AND THE PROMISE THAT THE REVOLUTION WILL BE PURSUED, LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE CHANCES OF A RESUMPTION OF THE LIBERALIZATION PROCESS ARE MINIMAL.
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 02577 02 OF 02 012150Z

GEISEL'S COMMENTS ON U.S./BRAZILIAN RELATIONS ARE THE MOST POSITIVE THING SAID ON THIS SCORE BY A SENIOR BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN A LONG TIME. WE CONSIDER THIS UNCHARACTERISTIC TONE A DIRECT RESULT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER OF MARCH 29.
END COMMENT.
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